

# Friends of Goffs Park Newsletter



Issue: June 2022



## Foreword

The Friends of Goffs Park are very excited to announce we have reformed our committee and are humbled to share our latest news, including our forthcoming event— **Show Time in Goffs Park**.

We are pleased to have the support of local council members, across various parties in advocating the interests of the park. It's great progress that **the Kiosk has now reopened** at the very heart of the park.

Currently, we are still campaigning for establishing more accessible toilets by the main lower car park, which we believe will help improve amenities for all.

With our new committee we've also started discussing new projects: including a sensory garden, new blossom and tree trails and a orienteering adventure with a historical aspect.

We seek to work with the Crawley Museum Society to surface hidden gems and help craft a trail where everyone can dive deeper into the past of the park.

As always, we're grateful for the continued support of all members and by all means feel free to get in touch! We always welcome new members.



Yellow irises outside Goffs Park House during May

## Show Time in Goffs Park

As part of celebrations for the Diamond 75th Anniversary of Crawley New Town, we are thrilled to invite you down to **Show Time in Goffs Park**.

Join us on Sunday 3rd July, 12:30-3:30pm. We will be on the Top Lawn in front of Goffs Park House.

**Come one, come all –with your picnic and a rug!**

Our stage is funded by Sussex Giving via the Crawley Cultural Fund. The event features dancers, musicians, martial arts performers and performance poetry.

We're also bringing together various community groups, who will have stalls. The Crawley & Horsham Armed Forces and Veterans group will be providing

refreshments. We'd also like to share that Crawley Model Engineers will be providing train rides on the day from 2pm.



## Key Dates

### Show Time in Goffs Park

- Sunday 3rd July
- 12:30-3:30pm
- Top Lawn in front of Goffs Park House.

### Friends of Goffs Park 18th AGM

- Saturday 24th September
- 12 Noon
- Outside the Kiosk.
- Otherwise St. Peter's Church if it's wet.

Nominations by members are invited for posts of Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Minutes Secretary, plus up to 8 members of the committee.

Please send nominations, with details of the proposer and seconder to Janet Roskilly, our Minutes Secretary  
[j.roskilly@aol.co.uk](mailto:j.roskilly@aol.co.uk)

### Lakeside Kiosk has opened with Pitch and Putt!

Back in March we said at Crawley Question Time and [as reported by Sussex World](#):

**"The kiosk is at the heart of Goffs Park, and we want it back!"**

We're grateful for the support from Crawley Borough Council in getting the kiosk back up and running.

We very much welcome the opening of the Lakeside Kiosk, which provides refreshments including breakfast and lunch, with food such as homemade vegan chilli and sausage/bacon rolls.

The Pitch and Putt is free to play at the moment; just £5 deposit for equipment from the café. The café is open 10-6 every day, come on down!



Here's the new kiosk crew and one happy dog enjoying her first special doggy ice cream!

### Crawley Model Engineers



The Friends of Goffs Park are pleased to share an update on the Goffs Park Light Railway from Tim Finch, Club Treasurer for the Crawley Model Engineers.

The raised track you see today was established back in 1962, when the newly formed group at the time had the opportunity from the local council to build such foundations for the project.

Here's an update from Tim:

"This year, our first full year of running since 2019, got off to a flying start back at the end March. This continued throughout April but the more inclement weather in May meant we didn't even open on one Sunday. Strangely the Jubilee Weekend also had low turnout – maybe the fair in Southgate had an impact on Goffs Park?

We've acquired a new steam loco which has now been used for passenger running on several weekends. This is thanks to the hard work of two of our members who had to make quite a few modifications to the loco as bought to make it suitable for our track.

One of these members also has his own steam loco which is used on some Sundays, so we hope this steam service will continue throughout the season.

After many years of discussion, Crawley Borough Council have finally agreed that the railway can be fenced in. This will be erected sometime in late summer or early autumn and for us it can't come soon enough. It will match the existing short length of fencing near the children's playground.

We will be running every Sunday until the hour changes in October, plus the August Bank Holiday Monday but it's always weather dependent. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for on the day updates."

Rides: 50p, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays in BST from 2-5pm



### Frank Lawler's Nature Corner

Frank is our official nature photographer who is always on the look-out for interesting fauna and flora about the park. The transition into Summer from Spring has been an exciting time. Frank says:

"We have five Canada goslings here with their parents and an older sibling at the back of the group. We also have a second batch of ducklings on the pond. There will also be a second set of chicks for the moorhens too."

Further to capturing great moments of the park's birds, Frank also has a passion for photographing insects and is always astounded by the diversity of insects that he finds in the park. Different insects tend to have different hosts and Frank shares some beautiful examples here:

"The red/orange caterpillar will turn into a sycamore moth and the yellow topped caterpillar will turn into a grey dagger moth...neither of which I have seen in adult form in the park."

The sycamore moth caterpillar (left) feeds on horse-chestnut and sycamore trees. The grey dagger caterpillar (right) feeds upon a range of deciduous trees including oak and hawthorn. Both these moths generally fly between June and August in the UK\*.

### Poetry Corner

#### The Birds

They go for what we cannot see,  
The little birds amongst the trees,  
The coal tit swings upon trapeze,  
Upside-down on maple leaf.  
In shimmering shade, the sparrows dart,  
Nipping at rosebuds and then the shrubs.  
The blackbirds lead the morning call,  
Looking out for one and all.  
Ruffling feathers by the pond,  
Rippling water, there's lots of fun.  
The pigeons spy with beady eyes  
To see what's left when all have sung.  
Pecking the ground for measly seeds,  
They will always do as they please.  
It's busy, the business of birds you see,  
No more, than we would wish to be.

By Silvana Wrigglesworth



Canada geese, *Branta canadensis*



Sycamore moth caterpillar, *Acrionicta aceris*



Grey dagger moth caterpillar, *Acrionicta psi*

Follow Frank on Instagram: [@gooffs\\_park\\_wildlife](https://www.instagram.com/goffs_park_wildlife)



Common blackbird, *Turdus merula*

\*NB. Moth facts derived from [ukmoths.org.uk](http://ukmoths.org.uk) and [wildlifeinsight.com](http://wildlifeinsight.com)

## Membership

Here's a message from Sue Herbert our Membership Secretary:

"Having taken on the Membership Secretary role this year, can I say how grateful I am to all of you who renewed your membership, and to those new members some of whom I've harried in the park on my dog walks!

Even when we don't organise events, we still engage regularly with the council on park issues, and have certain regular expenses, like our Public Liability Insurance. We haven't increased our membership from £5 per household, which has remained the price for many years. If you are aware of anyone with a love of Goffs Park on benefits who would like to support us in other ways, do get them to call me. Finances have been tough for some and we endeavour to be accommodating to all."

- Membership: £5 per household, which lasts until 31st March 2023.
- Please note, with the upcoming AGM, should you wish to nominate someone for the committee, this will require membership.

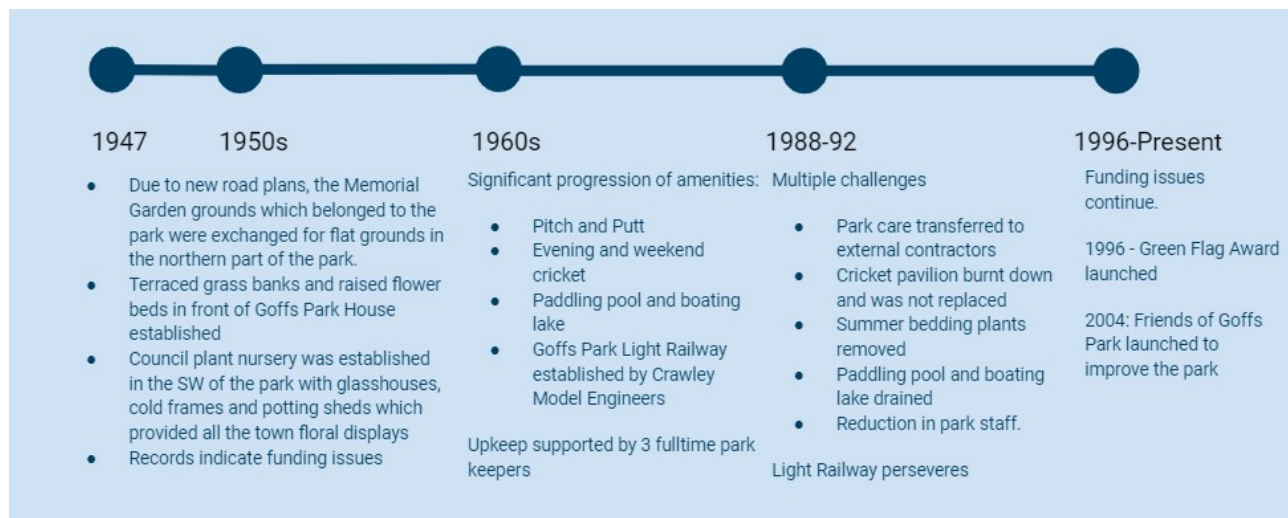
Please contact Sue for membership queries:

Tel. 01293 411355

Email: [sueherbert10@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sueherbert10@hotmail.co.uk)

## Goffs Park: A Historical Timeline

We reflect upon the history of Goffs Park, to share some insights which may be of interest to you when you walk around the park. On your walks, you may have stumbled upon remnants of the past, like the posts for the old garden gate on the Top Lawn which opened up onto the old Edwardian garden in front of Goffs Park House. You may have seen bricks on your woodland venture, which may have made you wonder whether that had anything to do with the old paddling pool or boating house by the lake...



The Friends of Goffs Park group was established in 2004, as a partnership with Crawley Borough Council. The team endeavours to further interests to protect the park, organise free community events and work parties, with the support of our members. At the very heart of the friends' mission is a **Nurture Strategy**, with a focus for building community and embracing the environmental value of the park.

Going forward, we're excited to learn that there will be more council funding dedicated to managing Goffs park and we've been consulting to further the management plan for the park.